

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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City Receives \$79,500 Grant From PetSmart Charities® Award Will Go Toward Ending Euthanasia & Shelter Overcrowding

JERSEY CITY — Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy announced this week that the **Department of Health & Human Services/Bureau of Animal Control** has been awarded a **\$79,500 grant from PetSmart Charities®** to help end the overwhelming surrendering of unwanted animals with a targeted spay/neuter program.

This grant will allow the City to help pet owners spay or neuter 400 dogs and 600 cats in a particular zip code, in this case 07305. The 07305 zip-code was chosen because of the amount of owner surrenders, strays, dead animals reported in that particular area. All dogs must be licensed to benefit from this grant. Because the grant money is limited, all spay/neuters are on a first come, first serve basis.

“I applaud PetSmart Charities® for investing in Jersey City and the hard work of the Bureau of Animal Control for recognizing the considerable benefits healthy pets provide for our residents’ quality of life,” said **Mayor Healy**. “We understand that many people are struggling, and that is why sought private funding to help our pet owners who may be facing difficult times. Our goal and PetSmart Charities®’ goal is to provide owners with the opportunity of keeping their pets rather than surrendering them to a shelter or abandoning them on the streets.”

The Humane Society estimates between three and four million cats and dogs are euthanized each year and that 25 percent of all pets in shelters are purebreds as opposed to mixes. In sharp contrast, the U.S. pet industry, consisting of, among other items, food, toys, and veterinary visits, contributed more than \$50 billion to the national economy last year alone.

“Not only do pets provide companionship and love to the homebound and elderly, they also help build community by bringing people together at dog runs in one of our many fine parks,” said **Mayor Healy**.

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The City's Bureau of Animal Control has developed many popular programs, such as the Annual Jersey City Pet Owners' Day, where it sponsors free rabies vaccination clinics for all dogs and cats. It's at these clinics that the City provides the convenience of dog licensing, including their most popular program, the Division's "Save on the Fee & Tag Fido for Three", where dogs are licensed for multiple years for one low fee. Other popular programs include the "Fido Alert System", which helps lost dogs recover their owners, and the "Save the Tree for Fido & Whiskers; Go Green by Getting Your Renewal Notices by Email!"

All residents of 07305 who wish to have their pet(s) participate in this no cost spay/neuter program should call Robin Pinkowitz at 201-547- 5507.

ABOUT PETSMART CHARITIES®

Established in 1994, PetSmart Charities, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that creates and supports programs that save the lives of homeless pets, raise awareness of companion animal welfare issues, and promote healthy relationships between people and pets. The largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America, PetSmart Charities has provided more than \$134 million in grants and programs benefiting animal welfare organizations and has helped save the lives of more than 4.8 million pets through its in-store adoption program. To learn more about how PetSmart Charities is working toward its vision of a lifelong, loving home for every pet, visit petsmartcharities.org or call 1-800-423-PETS (7387).

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699./////